

SEEN TO BE NEAR

German Raids on Western Front Resemble Planned Attacks in Scope.

FRENCH DECORATE YANKEES

Officers Have Trouble Restraining American Troops Who Are Eager to "Start Something" With Boche.

LONDON, March 4.—British troops operating north of Jerusalem in Palestine, have made an advance along a front of twelve miles to a maximum depth of 3,000 yards astride and west of the Jerusalem-Nablus road, the war office announced today.

Again, fighting on the western front has assumed proportions and an intensity that apparently forecast the opening of spring hostilities. If Germany intends to make a gigantic effort to break through the allied lines, as she has declared, indications are that the blow of blows may fall at any moment.

Raids by Germans have resembled planned attacks in the number of men engaged and in the width of front affected. Powerful thrusts have been directed against the American sector, against the French on the Chemin des Dames and against the British positions at many points.

While the British occupy lines especially fortified to withstand the "boasted" Teuton attack, preparations also have been made to understand the French should the German drive fall to be delivered. The opposing military chiefs are guarding against surprises and trying to outmaneuver each other in such a manner as to gain the decided advantage of an unexpected action.

AMERICANS ARE DECORATED

Americans, officers and enlisted men, who distinguished themselves in the repulse of the German attack northwest of Toul last week, have been decorated by the French government, war crosses being given the men in the presence of Premier Clemenceau, while the officers were decorated by the French government.

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Flight Lasts an Hour

Details of the German attack which failed completely to reach the trenches are now available. American artillerymen laid down a barrage fire as soon as the Germans started their attack, which was known to the French by the use of a "shock troops" which has been practicing for this operation for two weeks took part in the attack.

The fighting was brisk for about an hour, but the accurate machine gun and rifle fire from the American front lines, coupled with the perfect American barrage, which prevented reinforcements from coming up, forced the Germans to withdraw after suffering set foot in the American trenches.

Whole Platoon Volunteers

Soon after the attack a young lieutenant, commanding a platoon, member of which composed the last platoon of the line, was killed. He was killed only by a bullet in the head, but with only one wound, he returned to his trench and asked for a voluntary detail. Every man in the platoon volunteered, but the lieutenant picked out a small party and sent them to the front.

The American general commanding the unit on this front said the men were eager for action and the American soldiers were asking permission to remain in the front line longer than the allotted period. It has been found necessary to caution them frequently against exposing themselves, they are so anxious to get to the front.

ARSON CONSPIRACY CASE

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No Serious Gas Casualties

Between 500 and 1,000 gas shells are thrown at the American positions on the Chemin des Dames front each day, but there have been no serious gas casualties there. The men have been trained through the necessity of putting them before the gas, and the gas has been used before going into the trenches. They do not find it in the least objectionable and fight "like demons," as they say. A few men have been gassed slightly while adjusting their helmets, but this is inevitable when gas shells are thrown a long distance behind the lines. A brigadier-general said that he was riding in an automobile on a tour of inspection a few days ago when he was gassed slightly when a gas shell burst within 50 yards of his car. They suffered from headache and slight nausea, but otherwise there were no ill effects.

Accused of Forgery

Adolph J. Meyer was arraigned on two indictments, one charging him with issuing a fraudulent check to Henry J. Mauzer, 654 Blake street, for \$500.17 in payment for rents collected by A. J. Mauzer, and the other charging him with issuing a fraudulent check to Henry J. Mauzer, 654 Blake street, for \$500.17 in payment for rents collected by A. J. Mauzer.

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AMERICANS OCCUPY BILLES

72 FEET BELOW THE SURFACE

1,000 Men Quartered in Well-Lighted and Ventilated Cave—Guns Riddle With Bullets Sign Erected by Germans

Reading, "Welcome Yankees"—Chow Is Good.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 3 (by the Associated Press).—Some of the American troops in the Chemin des Dames sector are having an experience of cave life behind the front trenches, their billets being deep underground quarries and natural recesses beneath the surface. The correspondent on a visit to this sector found them thus quartered, occupying positions held by the Germans less than a year ago. Most of the Americans found them here for low, double-tiered wooden bunks covered with straw. The company officers are provided with wooden bunks with partitions. A small railway for carrying supplies runs through the cave. A sign over one entrance reads "Boston tunnel," and one of the men standing near remarked: "That reminds me of home."

Big Underground Billets

The underground billets, some of them limestone quarries and others partly natural in formation and improved through blasting operations by the Germans who occupied them for nearly three years, are various in size. One of them is called the "Panthéon." It accommodates 1,000 men. The corresponding found here are clean, bright, strengthened and improved and are well protected with barbed wire entanglements.

Begged to Stay Longer

At another point the correspondent saw some men who had just completed their round of trench duty. The general in command said they had begged to be permitted to stay in the line a few more days. "Why, they took us out before we even had a decent scrap," said a machine gunner.

Men Attack With Vigor

German prisoners captured in patrol fighting here said that the hand-to-hand fighting was so much more forceful and vigor that the Germans threw up their hands and shouted "Kamerad" in the belief that there were many more of the Americans in that sector, one of the most interesting is that of a German sergeant who, with a small detail, took a German prisoner in a patrol fight but lost his way with the result that the party wound up at the German barbed wire where he could plainly hear the Germans talking in their doubts. The sergeant pointed a revolver at the prisoner's head and asked the German: "Maybe they will get us before we can get back, but if they try I will kill you first. Now lead us back to our line."

Supplementary Treaty Signed

The supplementary treaty between the central powers and the Bolshevik government was signed at Brest-Litovsk in the city of Brest-Litovsk, according to a telegram to London from Brest-Litovsk by way of Vienna and Amsterdam which gives no details of the treaty.

Chief of Staff Proud of Americans "Over There"

WASHINGTON, March 4.—In a brief talk with newspaper correspondents today, General, Peyton March, chief of staff, recently returned from France, said that the American troops had shown absolute confidence in ultimate victory over the German forces.

Not Worrying in Trenches

"There is no pessimism at the front," General March said. "The boys who are doing the fighting have no lack of confidence. Of course, there are many things to worry the men at home, but the boys in the trenches are not worrying." The general recalled that General Sir Douglas Haig, commander in chief of the British imperial general staff, had once told him that whenever he felt discouraged, he found it helpful to visit the trenches.

Admiration for France

General March has only admiration for the French army and the spirit of France. "What I like is that the French are only being realized by one who has seen what France is doing. The splendid response of the women of France to the call of the French government is particularly inspiring. The women are running the business and the farms, he said, with men in the front, releasing their menfolk for duty in the army against the invader. You can make that just as strong as you like," he said.

Twenty-Six Indicted

Twenty-six persons, indicted by the grand jury recently, were arraigned before Judge James A. Collins, of the criminal court, today. Pleas of not guilty were entered in all cases except three.

ARSON CONSPIRACY CASE

Arnold Finchem, age seventeen, and Lewis A. Ross, indicted with Harry C. and Vinard Drake, on a charge of conspiracy to set fire to and burn a store building in Jackson county belonging to the Home Insurance Company, charged the Home Insurance Company, which issued a \$1,000 fire insurance policy on the building, entered pleas of not guilty.

WAR DEPARTMENT REVEALS WORK IN FRANCE

WASHINGTON, March 4.—Building a \$25,000,000 ordnance base in France, which will include approximately twenty large stores, twelve ship buildings, 100 other small shops and magazines and machine tool equipment, costing about \$5,000,000, was announced today by the war department.

MANY SHOPS UNDER WAY

The project includes a gun repair plant, equipped to repair more than 800 guns a month, a carriage repair plant of large capacity, a motor vehicle repair plant, capable of overhauling more than 1,200 vehicles a month; a small arms repair plant with a capacity for repairing approximately 80,000 small arms and machine guns a month, a shop for the repair of horse and infantry equipment and re-loading plant capable of re-loading about 100,000 artillery cartridges a month.

RUSSIANS PLAN TO HINDER JAPAN, IT IS BELIEVED

WASHINGTON, March 4.—The Russians have begun destroying bridges on the Trans-Siberian railroad between Lake Baikal and the Chinese frontier. John F. Stevens, chairman of the American railway mission, reported this today to the state department. This may prevent Ambassador Frances from reaching Vladivostok.

SOME STRUCTURES MINED

Without details, officials here believe that the Russians are mining bridges to prevent an expected advance of Japanese troops. A large number of other structures have been mined, Mr. Stevens also reported, so they could readily be destroyed.

How Yankees Obeyed Boche

[By the United Press] WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, March 4.—On the basis of the reports that the Germans are quartered in the billets, the Germans' conduct in Friday's raid on the St. Mihiel sector were far greater than the American losses—probably three or four to one. The highest praise has been accorded the officers and men, both of the infantry and artillery, for the manner in which they repulsed the raid. The Germans' conduct in the story was told today, ordered four Americans out of a dugout during the raid.

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